



FEB 03 2015

MARYLAND TECHNICAL GUIDE
CHANGE NOTICE NO. 94

Purpose:

- To distribute updated regulatory guidance on erosion and sediment control, stormwater management, and NPDES stormwater permits for agricultural activities
- To distribute an update of the Maryland *Conservation Practice Physical Effects* (CPPE)
- To distribute a new conservation planning guidance document: *Conservation Practices to Address Resource Concerns*

Effective Date. Upon receipt.

Explanation.

Section I-H: MDE Agricultural Practices and Agricultural Structures Erosion and Sediment Control, Stormwater Management, and NPDES Permit Guidance, November 2014

– This guidance document defines agricultural practices and structures, and identifies the thresholds for E&SC, stormwater management, and the NPDES NOI for Stormwater Associated with Construction Activity (NPDES NOI). The guidance explains that when NRCS Conservation Practices or MDA Best Management Practices are implemented per policy and specs in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Districts, they meet the requirements for E&SC, stormwater management, and the NPDES NOI, and therefore are not required to submit separate permit documentation. The guidance also defines agricultural structures as structures other than those being implemented as NRCS Conservation Practices or MDA BMPs that are integral to the farm operation, including the storage of farm equipment and products, and structures used for basic processing of farm products. Agricultural structures as defined may require separate documentation to address one or more of the stormwater-associated permits, depending on the size of disturbance.

Section V:

- The Maryland **Conservation Practice Physical Effects** (CPPE) matrix has been updated. The CPPE provides a numerical rating of the physical effects that each conservation practice may have on resource concerns.
- The Maryland **Conservation Practices to Address Resource Concerns** matrices are new guidance documents that can assist conservation planners in identifying the conservation practices that can be used to address resource concerns. These guidance documents differ from the CPPE in that:
 - The CPPE has numerical values and can include negative values, while the new guidance documents only identify practices that can be used to treat a concern.

- Not all practice-resource concern relationships with positive values in the CPPE are included in this workbook, because some practices, although they may have a positive effect on a resource concern, would generally not be planned specifically to address the resource concern
- Practices are planned to meet the purposes identified in the conservation practice standard, but in the CPPE, a practice may have a positive effect on a concern that is not addressed by the practice purpose. (Note: Supporting practices may be planned to meet the purpose of a primary practice.)

The new guidance documents are provided in three different versions of PDF format: Listed by practices in alphabetical order, listed by practices in order of practice code, and listed by resource concern. The documents are also provided as an Excel workbook, in which the filter capabilities of Excel can be used to reduce the list of practices or resource concerns for specific scenarios. See the Instructions tab in the Excel workbook for more information.

Filing
Instructions.

Section I: File the MDE Agricultural Practices and Agricultural Structures Erosion and Sediment Control, Stormwater Management, and NPDES Permit Guidance, November 2014 in Section I-H. File the Change Notice, the Change Notice Register and Table of Contents in the front of Section I of the Field Office Technical Guide.

Section V: Discard the previous version and file the updated Conservation Practice Physical Effects (CPPE) matrix in Section V – A. File the Conservation Practices to Address Resource Concerns in Section V - C.

Distribution.

All documents may be downloaded from the MD NRCS eFOTG web page:
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/efotg>

If you have questions concerning the regulatory guidance document, please contact Steve Strano at (443)482-2928 or steve.strano@md.usda.gov, or for questions relating to the Section V documents, please contact a member of the NRCS Resources staff.



MACHELLE SIMMONS
State Conservationist (acting)

Attachments

DIST: Maryland NRCS Field Offices (w/ attachments)
Maryland State Technical Committee (Change Notice only)